

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL
OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY
(CHAPTER I OR CHAPTER II
OF THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY)
(PCT Rules 44bis.3(c) and 72.2)

To:

NAKAMURA, Tomoyuki
c/o Miyoshi International Patent Office
Tomonemon Kotobira Tower
2-8, Tomonemon 1-chome
Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001
JAPON

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of mailing (day/month/year) 01 June 2006 (01.06.2006) | IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION |
| Applicant's or agent's file reference JSONY-589PCT | |
| International application No. PCT/JP2004/009607 | International filing date (day/month/year) 30 June 2004 (30.06.2004) |
| Applicant SONY CORPORATION et al | |

1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.



The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I).



The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the designated or elected Offices.

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following designated or elected Offices requiring such translation:

None

The following designated or elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

AE, AG, AL, AM, AP, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EA, EC, EE, EG, EP, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned within the applicable time limit (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.

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|---|--|
| The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland | Authorized officer Yoshiko Kuwahara |
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference J50NY-589PCT | FOR FURTHER ACTION | See item 4 below |
| International application No. PCT/JP2004/009807 | International filing date (day/month/year) 30 June 2004 (30.06.2004) | Priority date (day/month/year) 07 July 2003 (07.07.2003) |
| International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237 | | |
| Applicant SONY CORPORATION | | |

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis.2).

Date of issuance of this report
22 May 2006 (22.05.2006)

Authorized officer

Yoshiko Kuwahara

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Form PCT/IB/373 (January 2004)

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

TRANSLATION
PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

J8ONY-589PCT

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/009607

International filing date (day/month/year)

30.06.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)

07.07.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Applicant

SONY CORPORATION

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(c)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☒ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1b(4)(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/009607

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
- a. type of material
- ☐ a sequence listing
- ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
- b. format of material
- ☐ in written format
- ☐ in computer readable form
- c. time of filing/furnishing
- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

| WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY | | International application No. PCT/JP2004/009607 |
|---|--|--|
| Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement | |
| 1. Statement | | |
| Novelty (N) | Claims <u>1-23</u> YES Claims _____ NO | |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims _____ YES Claims <u>1-23</u> NO | |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims <u>1-23</u> YES Claims _____ NO | |
| 2. Citations and explanations: | | |
| <p>Document 1: JP 2000-078767 A (Mitsubishi Electric Corp.), 14 March 2000, Full text; Figs. 1-3 (Family: none)</p> <p>Document 2: JP 2003-032906 A (Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.), 31 January 2003, Paragraphs 0032-0035; Figs. 6-7 (Family: none)</p> <p>Document 3: JP 2003-115313 A (Sony Corp.), 18 April 2003, Paragraphs 0050-0056; Fig. 6 (Family: none)</p> <p>The inventions of claims 1-5, 8-20, and 23 do not appear to involve an inventive step over documents 1 and 2 cited in the ISR. Since the battery charging system described in document 1 and the power source device of document 2 share the function whereby power is supplied to a load from a plurality of power sources, using a fuel cell instead of one of the batteries of document 1 would be easily conceived by a person skilled in the art. It should be noted that document 2 describes the matter of using load information, secondary cell remaining power information, and current fuel cell status information to determine an operation mode for the next fuel cell. Document 2 also describes the matter of charging a secondary cell using power outputted from a fuel cell. The matter of whether to build the combination of the secondary cell and the secondary cell control means and the combination of the fuel cell and the fuel cell control means in the main unit or to package externally is a matter of design variation that could be appropriately designed by a person skilled in the art. Furthermore, carrying out two-line half-duplex communication in a system management bus is a well known means.</p> <p>The inventions of claims 6, 7, 21, and 22 do not appear to involve an inventive step over documents 1-3 cited in the ISR. Monitoring the remaining fuel in a fuel cell to control it based thereon is a well known means as can be seen in document 3.</p> | | |

| WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY | | International application No. PCT/JP2004/009607 |
|--|--|--|
| Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application | |
| The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted: | | |
| <p>"An electronic apparatus characterized by" in claim 16 is a typographical error for "a power source device characterized by".</p> | | |